

Press Intelligence, Inc.
WASHINGTON 1, D. C.

YAKIMA (Wash.) HERALD

Circ.: m. 14,478
S. 28,723

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Date:

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Thin Excuse

Moscow is trying to put the best face, naturally, on a bad situation. It says that "agents and provocateurs" directed by Allen Dulles, head of the United States Central Intelligence Agency, directed the June 17 riots in Berlin's Communist sector. Even if Dulles were in Berlin then, as contended by Russia and denied by Washington, the fact remains that the East Berliners

were ready to riot. It would have taken more than Yankee agents to send them against their masters and to risk their lives before Red guns, bayonets and tanks. The East Berliners arose in their misery and long-pent wrath. They felt they could not stand repression any longer. Moscow's explanation is ridiculous. It is one of thinnest yarns yet spun by the bosses of the Communist state.